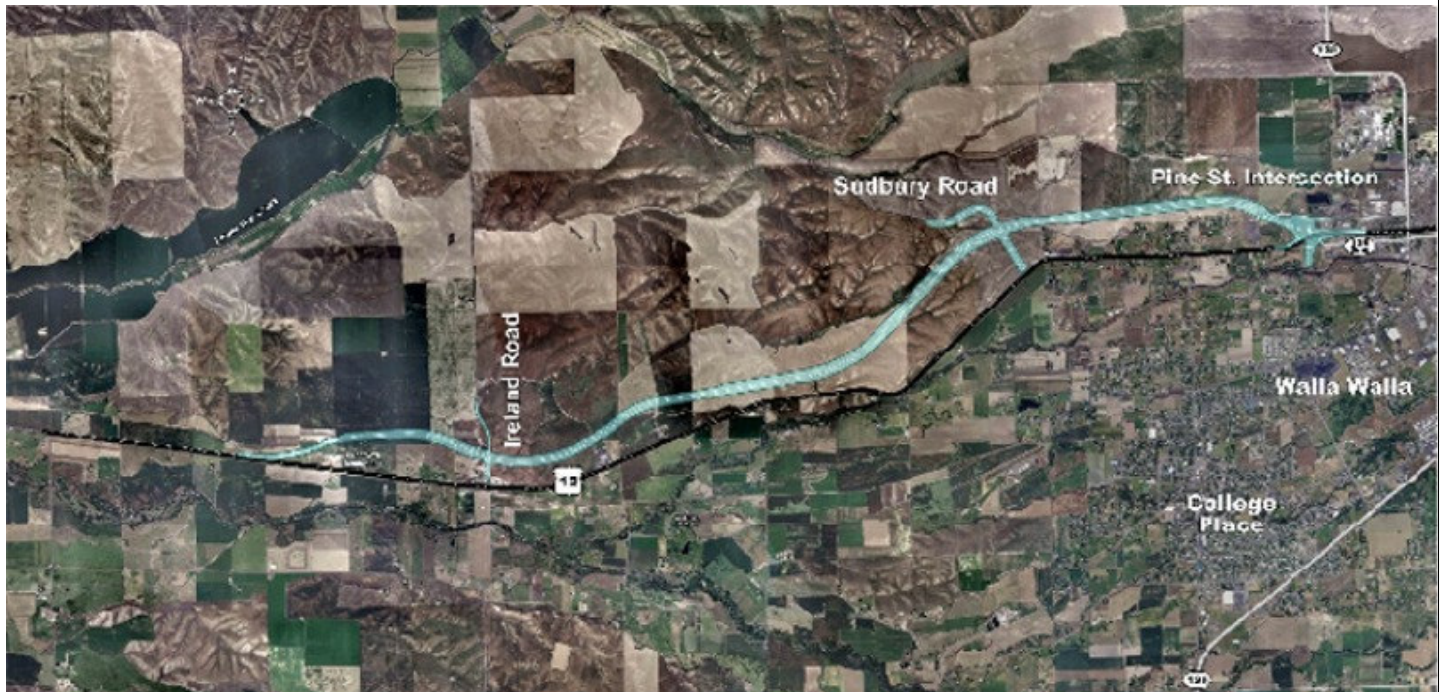


PHASE 6 - McDONALD ROAD TO WALLA WALLA PRELIMINARY LOCATION



Design Status:

Several possible corridors were considered and evaluated based on environmental issues, terrain, effects to properties, safety, traffic studies, financial constraints, and other engineering issues. Based on that analysis, a preliminary location has been identified (see photo above). As evaluation of the corridor continues, the final location will be determined through the completion of the environmental documentation process.

Environmental Status:

WSDOT is incorporating results from field studies conducted during this past summer within the Phase 6 study area into the draft environmental document. These results are essential to satisfying the required state and federal policies and laws that allow the project to be constructed. We are currently on schedule to complete Phase 6 environmental documentation by the summer of 2005.

EXIT INTERVIEW RESULTS FROM MARCH OPEN HOUSES

On March 29 and 30, 2004, WSDOT held open house events in Burbank and Walla Walla to update the public on the status of the U.S. Highway 12 widening projects. Both open houses drew record numbers with 176 attendees in Burbank and 168 in Walla Walla. In an effort to improve future events and tailor them more specifically to public needs, WSDOT conducted exit interviews in both locations.

Overall, both events were well received and attendees rated the experience favorably. In Burbank, the overall ratings were 47.3% excellent, 43% very good, 8.6% good, 1.1% fair, and 0% poor. The ratings in Walla Walla were 57.9% excellent, 21.1% very good, 17.5% good, 3.5% fair, and 0% poor.

Additional comments included requests to keep the public informed and provide more online information and maps. One attendee commented that he really liked the informal approach and that the WSDOT employees were approachable and professional. There were many expressions of appreciation for holding the event.

For the complete survey results, please visit us online at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US12SR124Wallula/ExitInterviews.htm>

The displays from the open house can also be seen online at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US12SR124Wallula/EventDisplays.htm> <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/US12SR124Wallula/displays.cfm>.

PROJECT UPDATES

These projects will expand the two-lane highway to a four-lane divided highway between Burbank and Walla Walla. This work will improve safety, decrease congestion, and enhance economic vitality.

**IT'S YOUR NICKEL.
WATCH IT WORK.**

These projects are funded in part by the 2003 Legislative Transportation Funding Package. The main source of funding is a 5¢ increase in the gas tax. The package also includes an increase in the large truck gross weight fee and a 0.3 percent vehicle sales tax.

PHASE 1 – US 12 McNary Pool to Attalia *This project added an additional lane in each direction from Casey Pond to the Dodd Road area, replaced a bridge, and constructed environmental mitigation features. Construction was completed on August 6, 2004. The project also included creating a new 24-acre wetland pond; constructing a new and improved recreational boat launch, parking area, and access roads; and improving the Iverson and Dodd Road intersections.*

PHASE 2 – SR 124 to McNary Pool

**IT'S YOUR NICKEL.
WATCH IT WORK.**

This project will add one additional lane in each direction from SR 124 to Casey Pond for a total of four lanes. The design phase is complete and all right-of way land has been acquired. The construction contract was awarded on December 6, 2005, to Steelman-Duff, Inc. of Clarkston. Construction is expected to begin in January 2006. Work to alter three irrigation structures is underway. The project also includes a study to evaluate interchange alternatives for the US 12 / SR 124 junction.

PHASE 3 – Attalia Vicinity

**IT'S YOUR NICKEL.
WATCH IT WORK.**

This project will add one additional lane in each direction from the Dodd Road area to the Boise Cascade area for a total of four lanes. Design work is underway, and construction is scheduled to begin in 2006.

PHASE 4 – Walla Walla to Wallula Planning Study

**IT'S YOUR NICKEL.
WATCH IT WORK.**

This planning study, which encompasses Phases 6, 7, and 8, will investigate and document existing social, economic and environmental conditions, and determine the preferred alignment of US 12 from the Wallula junction to Walla Walla. Preliminary design and environmental documentation continues with the main focus being on Phases 6 and 8.

PHASE 5 – Attalia Vicinity to US 730

**IT'S YOUR NICKEL.
WATCH IT WORK.**

This project will add an additional lane in each direction from the Boise Cascade area to the Wallula junction for a total of four lanes. Design for Phase 5 is scheduled to begin in 2006.

PHASE 6 – McDonald Road to Walla Walla

This project will change the alignment and location of US 12 between McDonald Road and Walla Walla and expand it to a four-lane divided highway. In 2003 and 2004, the U.S. Highway 12 Coalition successfully lobbied for \$8.2 million in federal funds to continue development of design and contract plans, and for the acquisition of right-of-way for US 12 between McDonald Road and Walla Walla. Recent progress includes preliminary environmental reports, preparations for an access hearing, identification of a preferred alignment, and preliminary design of intersections. This project is not currently funded for construction.

PHASE 7 – Nine Mile Hill to McDonald Road

This project will reconstruct US 12 from Nine Mile Hill to McDonald Road as a four-lane highway to reduce congestion and enhance safety. Preliminary design has identified corridors for further environmental and engineering studies. This project is not currently funded for design or construction.

PHASE 8 – Wallula Junction to Nine Mile Hill

This project will reconstruct US 12 from the Wallula junction to Nine Mile Hill as a four-lane highway to reduce congestion and enhance safety. Preliminary design has identified corridors for further environmental and engineering studies. This project is not currently funded for design or construction.

Contact Information

Phase 1

Project Engineer Moe Davari,
509-222-2402; DavariM@wsdot.wa.gov

Phases 2, 3, 5

Project Engineer Troy Suing,
509-577-1703; SuingT@wsdot.wa.gov

Phases 4, 6, 7, 8

Project Engineer Kerry Grant,
509-577-1760; GrantK@wsdot.wa.gov

General Inquiries

Communications Manager Mike Westbay,
509-577-1617; WestbaM@wsdot.wa.gov